

BEST PRACTICE CATALOG

Project Title: **PSYCHOLOGY PRE-DOCTORAL INTERN TRAINING PROGRAM**

Function Category: ☐ PATIENT-FOCUSED ☒ ORGANIZATION ☐ STRUCTURES

Subcategory: **Management of Human Resources** Heading: **Orientating, Training, and Educating Staff**

Key Word(s): **Psychology Intern Program**

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Hospital: **Vacaville Psychiatric Program**

Purpose: Vacaville Psychiatric Program (VPP) provides a unique opportunity for training of psychology doctoral students. Opportunities to obtain experience completing neuropsychological assessment, personality assessment, group and individual therapy, and research in an environment that provides inpatient psychiatric treatment for individuals who are mentally ill and incarcerated are limited.

Brief Description: In 1994, VPP offered one half-time psychology pre-doctoral position for neuropsychological assessment and research. Since that time, the program has developed to three full-time positions. Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC) approval was obtained in 1997. Application for American Psychological Association approval (APA) has been submitted. Pre-doctoral interns are provided training in both the acute and intermediate treatment programs. Opportunities for neuropsychological/psychological assessment, group and individual therapy, and research are provided. Seminars in neuropsychology, personality, case conference, journal club, research, and ethical/moral issues are conducted. Individual and group supervision is provided. Two dissertations are currently in progress: Multimethod Understanding of Inmate/Patients who Self Mutilate and MMP12 and Rorschach Understanding of Severe Psychopathy.

Selection Basis/Criteria: A predoctoral psychology intern training program provides benefits both to the intern who is learning and the staff who is teaching. The intern is provided opportunity to practice their profession in a unique and challenging setting. The staff is provided opportunity to work with intelligent, enthusiastic, talented students who challenge their knowledge and benefits in a positive way. The program has provided a means for better meeting the needs of the inmate/patient, as well as a way to obtain research data which is used to further develop the treatment program.

The following items are available regarding this Best Practice:

☐ Photographs ☐ Video Tape ☐ Drawings ☒ Manual

☐ Other : _____

DATE SUBMITTED: **October 14, 1998**